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LETTER DATED 17 NOVEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 16 November 1997 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning Iraq's cooperation in facilitating the Special Commission's activities in Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 16 November 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

I should like to refer to the letter dated 29 October 1997 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1997/829, annex). That letter communicated the decision of the Government of Iraq to the effect that it is ready to continue its cooperation with the Special Commission and to reach agreement with it on balanced arrangements to enable it fully to perform its task, in accordance with the legal framework and without excesses, provided that no one bearing United States nationality participates in any of the activities of the Special Commission in Iraq, especially activities involving inspections, interviews and ground-based and aerial surveillance. Subsequent to our letter of 11 November 1997 (S/1997/873, annex), the Special Commission's Baghdad Monitoring and Verification Centre (BMVC) notified the National Monitoring Directorate, the Iraqi counterpart agency to the BMVC, that it would undertake the regular and unannounced inspection activities of which particulars and dates are given hereunder. As each group prepared to depart from the BMVC, it was calmly informed by its Iraqi escort that Americans could not engage in inspection activities. At the same time, the Iraqi escort informed the group that the Iraqi authorities were ready to cooperate fully in providing assistance and ensuring that the requirements were met for a successful inspection by the remaining members of the team and in facilitating their task. The Iraqi escort would reiterate the same stance when the group moved off and as it was arriving at the site for inspection. On each occasion, and without any real justification, the group would cancel its scheduled activities either immediately or while travelling to the inspection site or after arriving at the site. These activities are listed hereunder in chronological order.

Sunday, 9 November 1997

1. Visit to Al-Harith Establishment by the MG-15 missile group.

2. Visit to an unknown objective by the CG-12 chemical group together with a group from the CSCI-1 inspection team.

3. Visit to the Al-Kindi Company by the BG-11 biological group together with a group from the CSCI-1 inspection team.

4. Visit to an unknown objective by two groups from the CSCI-1 inspection team together with the chemical group and the biological group.

Tuesday, 11 November 1997

1. Unannounced visit to Al-Karamah General Establishment by the MG-15 missile group.

2. Unannounced visit to the road leading to Al-Qa'qa' Establishment and Al-Rashid Establishment by one subgroup of the CG-12 chemical group, and a visit

by a second CG-12 subgroup and a group from the CSCI-1 inspection team to the Baghdad-Kut road.

3. Unannounced visit to the Harithiyah area by the BG-11 biological group together with export/import monitoring group and a group from the CSCI-1 inspection team.

4. Visit to the two objectives indicated under 2 and 3 above by two groups from the CSCI-1 inspection team together with the chemical and biological monitoring groups.

Wednesday, 12 November 1997

1. Visit to Al-Nida' General Establishment by the MG-15 missile group.

2. Unannounced visit to an undeclared objective by a subgroup of the CG-12 chemical group together with the CSCI-1 inspection team, and an unannounced visit by a second CG-12 subgroup to the Baghdad-Hillah road.

3. Unannounced visit to an unknown objective by a subgroup of the BG-11 biological group together with the CSCI-1 inspection team, and an unannounced visit by a second BG-11 subgroup together with the export/import group and a group from the CSCI-1 inspection team to the Amiriyah area.

4. Unannounced visit to the Amiriyah area by the EG-8 export/import group together with the second biological group.

5. Reconnaissance operation by the Aerial Inspection Team, which was cancelled before it began.

6. Visit to the sites mentioned under 2 and 3 above by two groups from the CSCI-1 inspection team together with two monitoring groups (missile, chemical and biological).

As you will have noted, the relevant Iraqi authorities have shown their readiness to cooperate with all inspection teams in which there are no American members. The Iraqi side will continue, in the best possible manner, to provide all facilities and to make available the requirements for the successful and efficient completion of the tasks of the inspection and monitoring teams.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Republic of Iraq